

REMARKS

This application is on appeal. The Examiner's Answer was filed July 21, 2004.

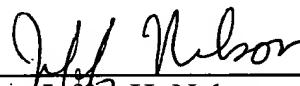
Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Their cancellation does not affect the patentability of the remaining pending claims. No claims have been added or amended. The amendment should be entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §41.33 (b)(1) (effective as of September 13, 2004) which authorizes cancellation of claims after an appeal brief as been filed.

If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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